

Our People's War is Gathering Momentum

The battle for South Africa is definitely on. Events of the past few years have demonstrated beyond all reasonable doubt. The past few years have witnessed growing upsurges of mass struggles; workers' strikes, students' boycotts, community protests, etc. Our people's army, Umkhonto we Sizwe, has been an active component of these upsurges. The Spear of the Nation sharpened and gave a cutting edge to these popular protests despite unbridled repression and violence characteristic of the South African racist regime.

Umkhonto we Sizwe "appeared to move freely in white areas, seemed able to switch areas of operation and attack with great ease, had the ability to evade capture, and could be assumed to be operating from within with a degree of impunity", "Talk to the ANC while there's still time" and "This is a taste of things to come" are the recent tunes the enemy is playing, swallowing with pain their "we've broken the back of the ANC" utter nonsense.

Below we publish the combat record of our glorious People's Army. The record is incomplete because not all actions are reported. Those that cannot be concealed are reported according to the enemy's version of them, concealing his losses as much as he can. The previous combat diary ended with the professional raid against the Orlando police station, 2nd November, 1979, (D A W N - Vol. 3 No. 11, December 1979).

11th December 1979: Three ANC militants and combatants of Umkhonto we Sizwe; Alexander Moubarris, Stephen Lee and Timothy Jenkins, all serving a long-term sentence under Terrorism Act escaped from the maximum security prison in Pretoria.

4th January 1980: A Soekmekaar police station in the northern Transvaal was raided by ANC guerrillas armed with AK-47 assault rifles.



25th January 1980: Three ANC freedom fighters held 15 hostages in a Volkskas Bank in Silverton, a suburb in Pretoria. Having assured the civilian hostages that they had nothing against them and explaining to them that they were fighting for our people's just demands enshrined in the Freedom Charter, the three militants demanded, among other things, the release of Comrade Nelson Mandela, our leaders and other political prisoners. Ignoring the demands laid down by the three patriots, the fascist police indiscriminately opened fire and killed some of the hostages. The three guerrillas died fighting back having killed a number of racist police including a captain of the South African police force.

5th April 1980: A unit of Umkhonto we Sizwe guerrillas attacked the Booyens police station with hand grenades, AK-47 assault rifles and an RPG-7 rocket launcher (bazoeka). The rocket launcher was used for the first time in the history of armed liberation struggle led by the ANC in South Africa.

1st June 1980: Members of the ANC's military-wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe, planted bombs and mines and sabotaged three of South Africa's leading oil refinery stations: SASOL I and II and NATREF. The bombs which exploded almost simultaneously caused damage to the tune of R65-million.

1st August 1980: A racist Det. Sgt. T.G. Zondi escaped death by millimetres when he was fired at with an AK-47 rifle near Sobantu Village in Pietermaritzburg. Empty cartridge cases of an AK-47 were found by police near the scene of the shooting. No one was arrested despite a massive search for the attackers.

30th October 1980. MK combatants hurled hand grenades at the West Rand Administration Board offices in Diepkloof. Extensive damage was done to the building.

21st November 1980: ANC combatant, Gordon Dikebu, fought heroically against the racist police who had staged a massive pre-dawn raid at his place of residence in Chiawelo. The shoot-out lasted about 10 minutes and an undisclosed number of fascist police were either killed or injured.

16th January 1981: An explosive charge blew up a Mdantsane railway line. Rail traffic was delayed for several hours.

12th April 1981: ANC guerrillas sabotaged a 15 metres long railway line on the Vryheid-Richards Bay line. When the locomotive's front detonated the explosive, there was a loud explosion. Five trucks were completely derailed and the remaining others seriously damaged.

20th April 1981: An electricity supply sub-station south of Durban was sabotaged with several limpet mines by a unit of MK combatants. The blast disrupted telephone communications, closed factories in and around Durban and left thousands of other industrial areas without power. A spokesman for the power station said that two transformers were completely destroyed.



6th May 1981: The puppet so-called mayor of Soweto, David Thebehali, narrowly escaped death when a bomb ripped apart his car. Shrapnel tore through the car damaging the boot, petrol tank, three tyres, seats and the roof of the car.

10th May 1981: A hand grenade was flung at racist railway policemen killing one of them. The incident took place in the eastern Transvaal when they tried to arrest a man who took out a hand grenade and tried to throw it into the car but was intercepted. A racist railway police spokesman said the blast killed one Sgt. Mahemi.

19th May 1981: The railway line linking Port Elizabeth to Johannesburg and Cape Town was blasted by an explosive charge between Swartkops and New Brighton. The sabotaged rail line was discovered three hours later when a coach of a Uitenhage train was derailed. Rail traffic was disrupted for several hours.

25th May 1981: The Fort Jackson police station in East London came under automatic fire and hand-grenade explosions. The unit of the ANC guerrillas involved in the attack retreated unchallenged.

25th May 1981: Three ANC guerrillas armed with AK-47 assault rifles ambushed a police patrol in Mdantsane. The puppet chief of the so-called Ciskei Intelligence Service, Brig. Charles Sebe, a Capt. Nonho and W/O Mlando were in the vehicle when it came under fire. Mlando was injured in the leg and arm whilst the other two were said to have escaped uninjured.

25th May 1981: A railway commuter line between New Canada and Dube stations in Soweto was sabotaged by a bomb explosion. Railway traffic was disrupted for several hours and hundreds of workers were belated. The explosive charge ripped off a metre of the rail line.

25th May 1981: Armed units of the ANC sabotaged a railway line in Durban. Rail traffic was delayed for several hours.

27th May 1981: A recruiting office of the SADF near the centre of Durban was blown up by an explosive charge. Damage was estimated at hundreds of thousands of rands.

11th June 1981: A bomb blasted the Durban-Empangeni railway

line. A railway spokesman said that the explosive device was suspected to have been placed on the line and detonated when the locomotive ran over it.

26th June 1981: A war memorial in Durban was blasted by a bomb in the early hours of the morning. The sabotage operation took place on the same day on which the racist Minister of Transport, Chris Heunis, was to meet Coloured 'leaders'.

28th June 1981: Within a month, the second explosion ripped off the railway line between Felixton and Fort Dunnford on the Natal north coast. It was suspected that an explosive device was placed on the line and was detonated when the goods train passed over it.

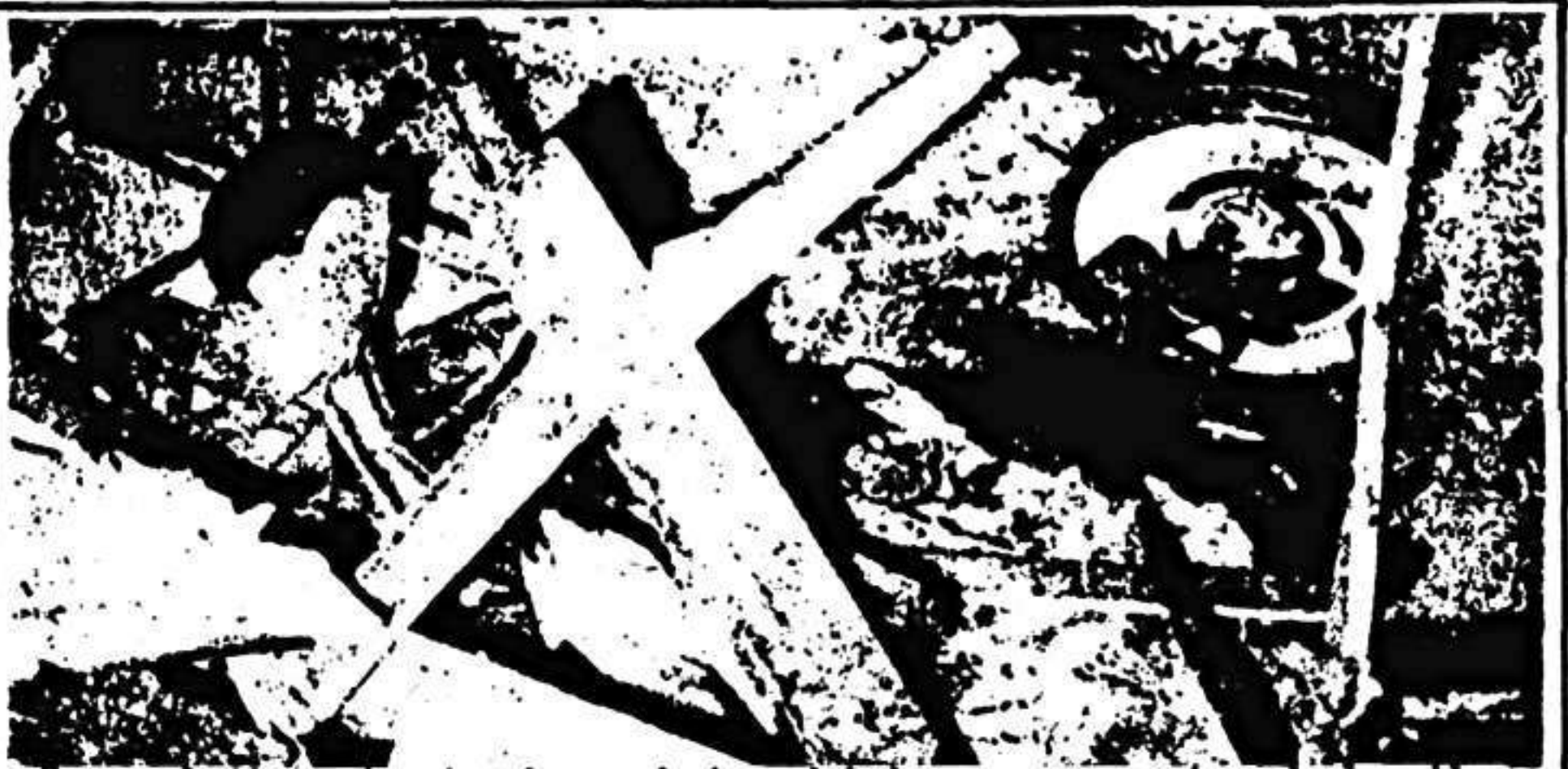
21st July 1981: Two major power stations in the eastern Transvaal were extensively damaged in a sabotage operation by a unit of ANC combatants. The explosions were reported to have occurred within an interval of 10 minutes. The Anort power station, east of Emerlo was blasted at 01,40 am when three explosive charges destroyed three transformers. A few minutes later, at 01,50 am, two limpet mines destroyed two transformers and five generator couplings at the Camden power station, east of Middleburg. A spokesman for Escom said that the sabotage plunged the town of Emerlo into darkness for several hours.

21st July 1981: The Delmas power station near Pretoria was blasted by bombs placed by Umkhonto guerrillas.

26th July 1981: Two bombs exploded in a Durban meter-town area of Smith street, twenty minutes apart, ripping open show-room frontages of McCarthy Leyland, damaging four new cars and shattering more than 50 windows on both sides of the street.

7th August 1981: A gun battle took place between the racist police and a unit of Umkhonto guerrillas at a road-block set up in Elliot, less than a hundred kilometres from Umtata. Two policemen were killed in the battle.

13th August 1981: Umkhonto combatants shelled the headquarters of the South African Defence Force (SADF) complex, the Voertrekkerhoogte military base. Four 122 mm rockets were fired at four strategic points. The racist authorities barred all journalists and photographers from reporting about this operation. The attack forced the racists to admit that it was the boldest of the current spate of attacks against the Pretoria killers' military and economic infrastructures.



One of the strategic points which was struck by the 122 mm rockets at the Voortrekkerhoogte military base.

3rd September 1981: Mapopane police station in Pretoria was attacked by a unit of ANC guerrillas armed with AK-47 rifles and hand-grenades. Three racist policemen were killed and several others wounded. A racist security spokesman of the Pretoria police said that between 20 and 30 guerrillas took part in the attack.

12th September 1981: A goods train detonated a landmine at Delville, Wood, near Pietermaritzburg cutting the railway line. The blast took place at 08,45 am.

10th October 1981: A powerful bomb exploded in the centre of Durban, destroying a number of buildings. The bomb destroyed part of the local offices of the Department of Co-operation and Development and the damage was estimated at R10-million.

11th October 1981: A bomb blast partly-destroyed the Kwa-Zulu government offices near Empangeni. The explosion took place at the superintendent's office causing damage estimated at more than R20,000.

21st October 1981: Umkhonto militants sabotaged five transformers at an Evader electricity sub-station. The explosion which took place at 08,45 pm occurred at the town's main sub-station causing a blackout for several hours.

23rd October 1981: Several transformers were destroyed by ANC patriots at an electricity power station in Witbank. The blast took place at 08,45 pm in Witbank's industrial township.

27th October 1981: Armed combatants of Umkhonto we Sizwe attacked the Sibasa police station in northern Transvaal and two racist policemen were killed. The guerrillas were using

hand-grenades, AK-47 automatic rifles and the much-feared RPG-7 rocket launcher (bazooka).

12th November 1981: Four transformers were destroyed at an electric power station in Pretoria north. Industrial Pretoria (Roslynn) was left without electricity for several hours.

REALITY SHATTERS THE RACIST MYTH

- JOYCE MBKONG

The impact of our struggle for national independence and freedom is growing tremendously. As could be expected, the imperialist powers led by the United States monopolies are becoming more concerned about the future of their multimillion dollar investments in Apartheid South Africa and of the whole Southern African region which in terms of their expansionist designs forms part of their 'sphere of interest' and over which the Pretoria fascist regime serves as their policeman. It is against this background that in addition to their increasing and covert support for their racist allies in Pretoria in defiance of the world's public opinion, imperialist propaganda directed against our just liberation struggles is assuming more hysterical tones. This can be seen in the wide coverage given to the 'findings' of the CIA-directed research groups in the employ of imperialism.

AN OLD MYTH

Recently two 'experts' - otherwise shady characters of distorted intellect - L.H. Gann and Peter Duignan who have long been working for the US-based Hoover Institute which is notorious for its subversive activities against national liberation movements in Southern Africa and forces of freedom, peace and progress the world over, have published a book. Its title is "Why South Africa will Survive - an Historical Analysis" and one South African revolutionary has most appropriately described it as a 'bible' on Southern Africa for the American new right and especially for the Reagan Administration say: "We do not believe that a South African revolution will come during our life-time; we are convinced that change will come from within the ruling white oligarchy rather than by liberation movements. We believe therefore that American sup-